

## REMARKS

Applicants have revised the abstract and have amended the claims to eliminate improper multiple dependency and to improve the claim language. Applicant has provided the added claims to cover subject matter covered originally by improper multiple dependent claims and to round out the coverage to which he are entitled. No new matter has been added,<sup>1</sup> nor has the claim scope been narrowed by these amendments.

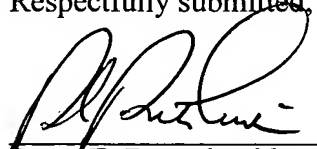
Early action allowing claims 1-11 is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 524642001600.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup> The deletion of the means-plus-function terminology does not introduce new matter because such "means" language in Japan, where the original priority application was filed, is interpreted to cover all structures capable of carrying out the recited function and not just those structures disclosed in the specification and their equivalents.